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BORDER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF, 1955.

K. J. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.M., Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer.

J. S. WATSON, M.B.E., Cert. R.S.I., Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

J. HILL, Cert. S.I.J.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.

H. WILSON, Cert. S.I.J.B., M.R.San.I., Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate. Additional Sanitary Inspector.

BRIAN DAVISON, Trainee Sanitary Inspector. Appointed January, 1954.

BORDER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

5 Victoria Place,

Carlisle.

December, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Border Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the health of the district for 1955.

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General was 30,040 being an increase of 100 over 1954 figure.

The Crude birth rate of 14.6 per 1,000 of the population was a little higher than the 1954 rate of 14.3. The "corrected" rate of 16.5 compares with 15.0 for England and Wales and 16.4 for the County of Cumberland. The upward tendency of the Birth rate as noted last year has therefore been maintained.

The Crude death rate of 13.5 with a "corrected" rate of 13.3, shows a distinct fall compared with the record high rate of 14.4 in 1954. The 1955 rate however was still above the National rate of 11.7 and compares with a rate of 12.2 for the County of Cumberland.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 20.5 per 1,000 live births compared with the very high rate of 37.4 in 1954. The rates for England and Wales and for Cumberland County were 24.9 and 28.4 respectively.

I am glad to report there were no Maternal deaths in 1955 compared with 3 in 1954.

There was a considerable decrease in the incidence of Infectious diseases—a total of 180 being notified compared with 297 in the previous year and 520 in 1953.

No case of Poliomyelitis occurred and for the seventh successive year no case of Diphtheria was notified or suspected.

During 1955 Phase 2 of the Roughton Gill water scheme was completed when duplicate mains were extended to Great Orton thereby improving the water supply to this area. The Banks extension scheme, commenced in 1954, was also further extended and completed.

It is again disappointing to report that no work was commenced on any of the major sewerage schemes planned for the area.

In accordance with the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 a survey of unfit houses in the area was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the first half of 1954. From this survey a programme of Slum Clearance was submitted and approved by the Ministry whereby some 480 unfit houses will be replaced over a period of 10 years.

Fuller details of housing matters and progress are contained in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

I would here record my grateful thanks to all members of the Council Staff and especially my colleagues and staff of the Health Department, for their very great assistance and co-operation given so willingly during the year.

My thanks are also due to the Chairman and members of the Council for their unfailing interest and support at all times.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

K. J. THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District in Acres	...	...	...	248,860
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...	...	...	30,040
Number of Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Book)	...	...	...	7,915
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£181,262
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£735

Population:

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1955 was 30,040 an increase of 100 over the previous year.

The following table gives the estimated population for the last ten years:

1946	...	27,490	Civilian only.
1947	...	27,700	Civilian only.
1948	...	28,500	Civilian only.
1949	...	29,660	Civilian and Service Personnel
1950	...	29,220	Civilian and Service Personnel
1951	...	28,720	Civilian and Service Personnel
1952	...	30,200	Civilian and Service Personnel
1953	...	30,070	Civilian and Service Personnel
1954	...	29,940	Civilian and Service Personnel
1955	...	30,040	Civilian and Service Personnel

Agriculture and Dairy farming continue to be the main industries of the district. The manufacture of fabrics, calico and woollen goods together with brickworks, plaster and cement and quarrying absorb a considerable number of male and female workers.

In addition some hundreds of men and women are employed in the R.A.F. Maintenance Unit and Army depots within the area.

No new industry was introduced during the year and there was no unemployment problem.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births:

(a) Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	214	211	425
Illegitimate	8	7	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	222	218	440
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 14.6
(Crude Rate).

Birth Rate corrected by Comparability factor 16.5

(b)	Still Births	Males	Females	Total
	Legitimate	3	9	12
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
		—	—	—
	Total	3	9	12
		—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total births 26.5

The above figure compares with a rate of 44.6 in 1954.

Deaths:

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths (all ages)	215	190	405
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population			13.5
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of population			13.3
Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total birth			Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of Age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	20.5
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There were no deaths of illegitimate infants.

Deaths from

Cancer	48
Measles	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

The following table, showing the Vital Statistics for England and Wales and certain groups in the County of Cumberland for the year 1955, is given for comparison.

	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales	15.0	11.7	24.9
Administrative County of Cumberland	16.4	12.2	28.4
Urban District of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and White- haven)	16.7	12.2	27.3
Rural Districts of Cumberland ...	16.1	12.3	29.2
BORDER RURAL DISTRICT —			
CRUDE RATES	14.6	13.5	20.5
BORDER RURAL DISTRICT —			
CORRECTED RATES	16.5	13.3	20.5

Infantile Mortality:

According to the Registrar General there were nine deaths of infants under one year of age giving an Infantile Mortality rate of 20.5 per 1,000 live births.

From my own records however I can only trace eight infant deaths, the same as occurred in 1953, compared to a total of sixteen in 1954 with a Mortality rate of 37.4. The rate for England and Wales in 1955 was 24.9.

Very considerable yearly fluctuations in these rates must be expected when dealing with such small numbers as obtain in the Border area. This is very clearly shown in the table giving the rates over the past ten years for the Border area and England and Wales respectively. While the England and Wales rates show a continuous and steady fall the Border figures show a wide variation.

It will be noted in the appropriate table which follows that six infants died within four weeks of birth and four of these were less than a week old.

Of the eight infants six were boys. Seven of the babies were born and died in Hospital.

Details of Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age, 1955.

		Age in Weeks					Age in Months					Total Deaths
		Under 1 wk.	1-2	2-3	3-4	Total under 1 month	1-2	2-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	
Prematurity	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Deformities	..	2	1	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Birth Injury	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hydrocephalus	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Broncho-pneumonia	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS		4	1	—	1	6	1	—	—	—	1	8

Infantile Mortality Rate 1946-55.

Year	Border Rural District		Infantile Mortality Rate	
	Population	Total Deaths	Border R.D.	England and Wales
1946	27,490	28	57	42.9
1947	27,700	24	43	41.4
1948	28,500	16	29.9	34
1949	29,660	13	25	32
1950	29,220	27	35.9	29.8
1951	28,720	8	17.6	29.6
1952	30,200	12	28.2	27.6
1953	30,070	8	18.8	26.8
1954	29,940	16	37.4	25.5
1955	30,040	9	20.5	24.9

Maternal Mortality.

It is pleasing to report that there were no maternal deaths during 1955. In 1954 and 1953 there were three and two respectively.

Cancer Mortality.

The Registrar General's table shows that there were 48 deaths from Cancer—29 males and 19 females while my own records show that there were in fact 20 such female deaths. This represents a mortality rate of 1.6 per 1,000 of the population and equal to 12% of all deaths. In 1954 the corresponding figures were 1.6 and 11%.

The average age at death of Cancer cases for males was 66.3 years while that of females was 63.6 years—a little higher than for last year.

Location of Disease.

Alimentary System:							Males	Females
Mouth	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Oesophagus	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—

Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	9	2
Bowel	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Pancreas	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Reproductive System:							
Breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	7
Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Genito Urinary System:							
Kidney	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Bladder	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Respiratory System:							
Lungs and Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Other Sites:							
including Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
TOTAL						29	20

Deaths from All Causes:

The total deaths recorded showed a fall from the previous year—405 compared with 432 and this is reflected in the lower Crude Death rate of 13.5 as against 14.4 in 1954. The corrected rate of 13.3 compares rather unfavourably with the England and Wales figure of 11.7 and a rate of 12.2 for the County of Cumberland.

I would again point out how the inclusion of all deaths occurring in Garlands Hospital has had the effect of increasing the Death rate for the area.

During 1955 deaths in Garlands numbered 86 equal to just over 21% of all Border deaths compared with 22% in 1954.

Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System, as usual, accounted for the greatest number of deaths, a total of 192 representing 47.4% of all deaths. This is a little less than in 1954, but still higher than the England and Wales figure. The

higher proportion of such deaths is again due to the fact that of all Garlands deaths 58% were due to Heart and Circulatory diseases.

Vascular lesions of the Nervous System, i.e. Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis accounted for 72 deaths equivalent to 17.8% of all deaths. This is an increase over the previous year and is above the National rate.

Cancer deaths numbered 48 equal to 12% of all deaths and practically the same as for 1954.

Cancer deaths in Garlands represented only 8.1% of all Garlands deaths—a much lower rate than for the general population and a feature which has been commented on in previous reports.

Diseases of the Respiratory System, excluding Tuberculosis, accounted for 16 deaths representing nearly 4% of all deaths, the same as recorded in 1954 and about half the National rate.

Deaths from motor accidents numbered 4, being one less than in 1954, while deaths from all other accidents decreased from 14 to 9 in 1955. Four of these deaths were due to accidental drowning.

Ages at Death All Causes — 1955

		Under 1 yr.	1—4	5—9	10—14	15—19	20—24	25—29	30—34	35—39	40—44	45—49	50—54	55—59	60—64	65—69	70—74	75—79	80 & over	Total
Males		6	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	1	2	9	6	12	17	35	34	43	45	215
Females		2	2	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	3	1	10	10	18	23	27	30	58	190
Total		8	2	1	3	3	2	2	—	1	5	10	16	22	35	58	61	73	103	405

Causes of Death as given by the Registrar General, 1955.

					Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	...	...	2	2	4
2.	Tuberculosis—Other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasite Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	...	...	...	9	2	11
11.	Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	4	1	5
12.	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	...	...	...	—	5	5
13.	Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	...	...	...	—	3	3
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	16	8	24
15.	Leukaemia. Aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	2	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of the Nervous System	...	...	...	37	35	72
18.	Coronary Disease—Angina	...	...	...	40	18	58
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	3	4	7
20.	Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	47	60	107
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	7	13	20
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	3	8
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	7	—	7
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	—	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	4	—	4
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	2	2
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	3	2	5
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	3	3	6
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	15	22	37
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	3	1	4
34.	All other Accidents	...	...	...	7	2	9
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	—	1	1
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	—	—	—
All causes					215	190	405

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities:

All necessary facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Cumberland Infirmary under the able direction of Dr. J. S. Faulds.

Since early in 1955 Dr. D. G. Davies has been in charge of the Bacteriological work while Dr. Faulds continued in charge of all Pathological and Bio Chemistry work. To these Consultants and their staffs I tender my grateful thanks for unfailing help and advice.

Ambulance Facilities:

No change has been made in the Ambulance arrangements for the area.

An ambulance is based at Kirkclinton to serve the wide area to the North while the rest of the Border Area is served from Carlisle as centre. In addition an Infectious Disease Ambulance is based at Longtown Hospital. "Sitting Case" cars are available throughout the whole district.

Nursing in the Home:

The County Council, being the responsible Health Authority, provides for all such services.

The district is divided into 12 actual nursing areas with a nurse in charge of each area with the exception of Longtown where there are two nurses. Each nurse, in the case of 11 of the districts acts as District Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitor. It has been found more satisfactory in a scattered rural area to have the District Nurse qualified to act as Midwife and Health Visitor where possible.

There is one full time Health Visitor, who in addition to home visiting, attends School and Child Welfare Clinics at Brampton and Carlisle.

There were 39 Home Helps on the Register, a decrease of three compared with 1954.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:

There are two County Clinics in the area: Union Lane, Brampton and 14 Portland Square, Carlisle.

Clinic Sessions are held as follows:—

School Clinics.		Child Welfare and Immunisation Clinics.	
Brampton—	1st and 3rd Fridays, 10—12 noon.	1st and 3rd Fridays, 2—4 p.m.	
Carlisle	—2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10—12 noon.	2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.	

In addition Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat and Orthopaedic Specialist Clinics are held at 14 Portland Square at regular intervals throughout the year.

Dental Clinics are also held at Brampton, Longtown and Carlisle every week.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:

The routine bacteriological examination of the fifteen public water supplies maintained by the Border Council was continued throughout the year. Visits were paid to the gathering grounds and intake points to check on possible sources of pollution.

A total of 128 samples were taken and the results as shown below were satisfactory.

Total samples taken	...	...	128	
Highly satisfactory	...	...	110	) 87%
Satisfactory	...	...	2)
Suspicious	...	...	9	7%
Unsatisfactory	...	...	7	6%

Although 20 fewer samples were taken during 1955 compared with the previous year, the number falling into the first two groups increased to 87% of the total as against 79% in 1954 with a corresponding reduction in the unsatisfactory group.

Two samples were taken for full chemical analysis and both were satisfactory. In addition several samples were taken for bacteriological examination from private supplies.

I am indebted to Mr. W. Skerry, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following report on Water and Sewerage matters.

WATER

Improvements and extensions to supplies over the past year include the following:—

1. Banks Water Supply.

Completion of extension to Clockey Mill comprising 1.7 miles.

Commencement of extension to High House.

2. Roughton Gill.

Phase 1.

Completion of new reservoir at Rosebank—capacity 200,000 gallons.

Phase 2.

Completion of duplicate mains from Warnell Top to Great Orton with a branch from Dalston to Lingeyclose—total distance of 11.5 miles.

SEWERAGE

Blackwell.

The duplication of the existing sewer from the City boundary to Low Moor Avenue was commenced towards the end of November.

Its purpose is to afford ultimately drainage being extended to Durdar, but immediately to accommodate the 80 new houses being erected at Blackwell for the Council.

Particulars of Water Supplied

Parish	No. of Houses in Parish	Direct to Houses		By means of public Standpipes	
		No. of Houses Supplied	Population Supplied	No. of Houses Supplied	Population Supplied
Arthuret ...	761	742	2,725		
Askerton ...	49	20	180		
**Beaumont ...	126				

Bewcastle	...	154	75	276		
Brampton	...	1,019	942	3,262	27	100
**Burgh-by-Sands		243				
Burtholme	...	75	60	220		
Carlatton	...	11	7	26		
Castle Carrock		101	86	316	3	11
*Cummersdale	...	203	4	15		
Cumrew	...	22	12	44		
Cumwhitton	...	99	66	242		
Dalston	...	728	708	2,605	18	65
Denton Nether		96	47	170	1	6
Denton Upper		38	11	41	4	14
Farlam	...	253	243	895		
Geltsdale	...	2	No Supply			
Hayton	...	434	378	1,390	24	87
Hethersgill	...	143	129	473		
Irthington	...	223	201	740	6	22
*Kingmoor	...	93	58	214	9	33
Kingwater	...	59	16	59		
Kirkandrews	...	221	202	743		
Kirklington	...	91	77	284		
Midgeholme	...	44	25	92	9	33
Nicholforest	...	144	57	210		
Orton	...	122	121	445		
*Rockcliffe	...	247	200	735	6	22
*St. Cuthberts	...	478	299	1,100	13	48
Scaleby	...	93	84	309		
Solport	...	62	24	89		
*Stanwix	...	366	69	254	8	29
Stapleton	...	86	66	243		
Walton	...	99	59	217	9	33
Waterhead	...	55	10	37		
Westlinton	...	102	92	338		
*Wetheral	...	1,263	839	3,096	23	86

****Parishes wholly supplied by the Corporation of Carlisle in their Statutory Area.**

***Parishes partly supplied by the Corporation of Carlisle.**

Notifications of Infectious Diseases, 1955 — Age Groups.

Diseases	—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	55—	65—	T	AH	D
Measles	...	1	3	16	9	13	52	5	2	5	—	—	—	106	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	1	5	3	6	2	15	1	—	1	—	—	—	34	1	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	10	4	1	—	—	—	—	15	—	—
Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	1	2	9	4	1
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	5	—	—
Dysentery	...	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	4	1	10	5	—
Food Poisoning (Salmonella)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	2	9	9	15	15	79	11	5	8	3	5	4	5	180	11	1

Key: T — Total
 AH — Admitted to Isolation Hospital
 D — Deaths.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was a fall in the number of infectious diseases notified during 1955, a total of 180 against 297 in 1954.

Measles.

A total of 106 cases was notified compared with 232 in 1954 and 420 in 1953. To my knowledge only one case was admitted to Hospital owing to severity of symptoms and there were no deaths from the disease.

A few cases were notified during the early months of the year, but most occurred during June, July and August, the areas chiefly affected being the Roadhead—Penton area and in and around Burgh-by-Sands.

Whooping Cough.

There were 34 cases notified compared with 21 in 1954.

One case was admitted to hospital and there were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

Fifteen cases were notified compared with 18 in 1954 and 35 in 1953.

No case was admitted to hospital and there were no deaths.

I would point out that in the case of 4 of the notifications received follow up showed that they were not true Scarlet Fever cases. The 4 boys in question were all contacts of a definite case of Scarlet Fever occurring in a private school, and who on swabbing were found to have the haemolytic streptococcus organism in their throats. None of the boys developed a Scarlet rash nor were they really ill, but they were excluded from school as possible sources of infection and were only re-admitted when negative swabs had been obtained.

Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia

Nine cases were notified compared with 13 in 1954 and 5 in 1953.

Four cases were treated in hospital (two being already in Garlands Hospital) and there was one death, a patient also resident in Garlands.

From the Registrar General's returns it will be noted that there were 8 deaths from Pneumonia reported during 1955. The apparent discrepancy in these figures being due to the fact that only Primary and Influenzal Pneumonias are notifiable.

Erysipelas.

There were five cases of Erysipelas notified compared with two in 1954. The cases were all mild and none was admitted to hospital.

Dysentery.

Ten cases were notified and all proved bacteriologically due to Sonnei type of organism.

Five cases occurred in Garlands Hospital, while the remaining five were all members of one family.

While Dysentery as found in this Country is not normally a serious condition it can be fatal to the very young and the very old.

For some reason during the past few years there has been a marked increase in the number of notifications from this disease in the Country generally and examination of previous records show that this is borne out in the Border area as well. It would seem that there are carriers of Sonnei Dysentery always present in the general population, and perhaps more accurate diagnosis and investigation explains why more cases are being notified, but this is not the full explanation.

Food Poisoning or Salmonella Infection.

There was one confirmed bacteriological case of Salmonella Infection, namely an elderly woman in Garlands was found to be suffering from a rather unusual type of Salmonella organism.

Two other cases did occur in the Border area due to the Salmonella Typhi-Murium organism but as both cases were diagnosed after admission to hospital, notifications were sent to Carlisle City Medical Officer of Health. Follow up of contacts was carried out by myself and in one case the source of infection was traced back to the patients home in Lancashire where a younger brother was found to be suffering from the same infection.

Acute Poliomyelitis:

I am glad to say that there were no cases during the year of this disease. Two cases occurred in 1954 and 10 in 1953 and it may be that the epidemic which affected Carlisle and district in 1953 gave the general population a certain amount of protection which is still effective.

Smallpox.

No case of Smallpox or known contact occurred during the year and in the absence of any case in the Country generally no re-vaccination of the Health Staff was found necessary.

Diphtheria.

For the seventh successive year there has been no case of Diphtheria in the area and it is now nine years since the last death from this disease was recorded.

Since the Diphtheria immunisation campaign began in 1940 over 11½ million children have been immunised with consequent saving of thousands of young lives.

During the last few years there has been a falling off in the numbers of babies immunised although there was a slight upward swing in 1955. In a circular issued in March 1956, the Ministry of Health stated that the object of the campaign remains as before: "to secure immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. The number of children immunised before they were one year old was 36% in 1954 and 38.4% in the first half of 1955; while this trend is encouraging, the percentage is only half the figure aimed at."

In 1955 there was again a fall in the corrected notifications (England and Wales figures) to a new low figure of 161 but the 11 deaths from Diphtheria represent an increase of 2 over 1954 (see table).

During the year 1955 the following number of children were immunised in the Border area.

Primary Immunisations:

(a) Children up to 4 years of age	...	...	231
(b) Children 5—15 years of age	...	...	83
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	314
			<hr/>

Re-immunisation or Boosters 639

These figures show an increase over 1954.

Diphtheria—Notifications and Deaths 1944-1955

		England and Wales		Border District	
Year		Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1944	...	23,199	934	28	3
1945	...	18,596	722	14	1
1946	...	11,986	472	8	1
1947	...	5,609	244	—	—
1948	...	3,575	156	3	—
1949	...	1,890	84	—	—
1950	...	962	49	—	—
1951	...	664	33	—	—
1952	...	376	32	—	—
1953	...	266	23	—	—
1954	...	173	9	—	—
1955 (Provisional)		161	11	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of new cases added to the Tuberculosis register and of deaths from Tuberculosis during 1955.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25 years	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 — 35 years	4	6	1	4	—	—	—	—
35 — 45 years	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45 — 55 years	6	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 — 65 years	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	2	1	1	1	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	18	12	2	7	2	2	—	—

In the above total of 39 cases no less than 16 refer to inward transfer cases, i.e. cases previously notified elsewhere but who moved into the Border area during the year.

Seven of the new cases were notified from Garlands Hospital, only one being previously resident in the Border district prior to admission.

Two cases included in the total notifications were subsequently removed from the Register as on further investigation the diagnosis of Tuberculosis was not confirmed.

It is interesting to note that seven of the new cases notified were discovered as a result of visits to the Mass Radiography Unit—ample evidence of the importance of this service in preventive medicine.

Two males and two females died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis giving a Tuberculosis Mortality rate of 0.13 per 1,000 of the population. This is a little higher than the 1954 rate of 0.10 and compares with a rate of 0.14 per 1,000 for England and Wales in 1955.

The following table gives the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1955.

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	126	85	211
Non-Pulmonary	26	33	59
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
All forms	152	118	270
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Mobile Mass Radiography Unit under the direction of Dr. W. H. Morton, Consultant Chest Physician, carried out numerous visits in the area during the year and the results are tabulated below. In addition sessions were held at the Headquarters of the Unit in Carlisle where many members of the Public resident in the Border area attended, but for which no figures are available.

From the table it will be noted that in addition to the seven new active cases discovered many inactive cases were brought to light and it must be remembered that these cases are also kept under supervision. A very large number of other abnormal conditions were found although many of these conditions were not necessarily serious or requiring treatment.

Mass Radiography Unit—Summary of Findings, etc., 1955

Area Visited	Date 1955	Total Number x-rayed.	New active cases	Inactive cases	Other Abnor- malities
Longtown, C.A.D.	March	1,017	1	8	23
Brampton	May	468	—	7	24
Garlands Hospital	June	852	5	57	130
14 M.U. R.A.F.	October	1,615	1	19	64
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals		3,952	7	91	241

It is again disappointing to report that the general public is not taking advantage of this service as they might. Every-one possible should attend the Unit for a chest x-ray once a year or even oftener if there is any suspicion of chest trouble.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

As an additional weapon in the fight against Tuberculosis the Central Government recommended that local authorities carry out B.C.G. Vaccination on a limited scale. Accordingly the Cumberland County Council, as the Health Authority, instructed Dr. Fraser, County Medical Officer, to organise a scheme of such vaccination.

In March, 1955 B.C.G. vaccination, preceded by Mantoux testing, was commenced in Cumberland, children of 13-14 being the age group selected.

At the present time B.C.G. Vaccination is offered to the general public only to those in the above age group and to contacts of cases of Tuberculosis. It is anticipated however that vaccination will in due course be offered to all who wish this protection.

The following tables gives details of this work carried out in the Border area during 1955:

Scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination for 13/14 Year Age Group. Mass Miniature Radiography.

	Total number of children in 1941 age group as shown on Nominal Roll.	Total number of children in 1941 age group who had given consent for B.C.G. Vaccination.	Number with satisfactory Mass Radiography Report.	Number with unsatisfactory Mass Radiography Report and called for Large Film.
				<div>Satisfactory</div> <div>Unsatisfactory</div>
Brampton Grammar	30	30	25	2
Irthing Valley	106	58	88	—
Bewcastle Park	5	5	5	—
Bewcastle Bailey	4	3	3	—
Longtown	37	32	27	1
Warwickland	3	3	3	—
Carlisle Eden School	64	31	30	1
Burgh-by-Sands	8	6	6	—
Carlisle and County High School	21	19	15	—
TOTAL	278	187 (67.2%)	225 (80.9%)	4 (2%)

Results of Mantoux Testing and B.C.G. Vaccination 13-14 Year Old Age Group, up to and including 31st December, 1955.

	No. of children Mantoux Tested	No. found to be Mantoux Negative	No. found to be Mantoux Positive	No. given B.C.G. Vaccination.	No. Positive to Post B.C.G. Test	No. Negative to Post B.C.G. Test	No. who did not have Post B.C.G. Test
Brampton Grammar	25	24	1	24	23	—	1
Irthing Valley	86	72	14	72	69	1	2
Bewcastle Park	5	4	1	4	4	—	—
Bewcastle Bailey	3	3	—	3	3	—	—
Longtown	26	19	7	19	18	1	—
Warwickland	3	2	1	2	2	—	—
Carlisle Eden School	52	39	13	39	36	—	3
Burgh-by-Sands	7	7	—	7	4	—	3
Carlisle and County High School	15	12	3	12	12	—	—
TOTAL	222	182 (82%)	40 (18%)	182 (82%)	171 (94%)	2 (1%)	9 (4.9%)

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the above Act. Four old people were however reported as in need of care and attention and after visitation arrangements were made for voluntary removal to suitable accommodation.

It is unfortunate that many of these old people are borderline cases in that they are not ill enough to be considered hospital cases, but are quite unfit to look after themselves owing to old age or some physical disability. Cases admitted to Part III accommodation must be able to look after themselves and to require no attention on the part of nursing staff.

It is very clear that some type of intermediate accommodation is urgently needed to deal with this type of case.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1955

To the Border Rural District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I beg to submit my Twenty-second Annual Report:

NOTICES SERVED.

The number of Notices served during the year was:

			Formal	Informal
Public Health Acts	...	...	1	21
Housing Acts	...	...	32	—
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	—	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts			—	—
			<hr/> 33 <hr/>	<hr/> 21 <hr/>

HOUSING

New Buildings.

The steady rate of house building by the Council was maintained during the year and 79 houses were completed with 84 in course of erection. In addition 60 houses were erected either privately or by service departments.

It is hoped the problem of housing old people will eventually be resolved as a result of the Council's decision to include an increasing number of houses for this special class in future schemes.

The following table gives details as at the 31st December, 1955:

Place				No. in course of erection	No. erected
Dalston	...	...	...	—	66
Brampton	...	...	...	—	5
Kirkandrews Moat	...	...	...	—	6
Longtown	...	...	...	—	2
Blackwell	...	...	...	80	—
Low Row	...	...	...	4	—
				—	—
				84	79
Private Building	...	...	...	42	60
				—	—
				126	139
				—	—

Housing Acts, 1949-54—Improvements to Houses

The number of houses improved and reconditioned with the aid of a grant shows an increase during the year, but in spite of the fact that every opportunity is taken of drawing property owners attention to the assistance available the number of applications is disappointing.

Details of applications during 1955:

Applications received—39 in respect of 47 houses.

Applications approved—37 in respect of 44 houses.

Value of works approved—£30,827.

Value of grants approved—£10,910.

Improvements completed during the year—29 in respect of 32 houses.

Housing Act, 1936—Section 11.

The policy of dealing with unfit houses after the tenants have been re-housed has resulted in 32 houses being reported and appropriate action taken.

Slum Clearance Programme

In accordance with the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, a programme of slum clearance was prepared, approved by the Council and submitted to, and approved by, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The programme provides for replacing some 480 unfit houses over a period of 10 years.

Steps are being taken to obtain land at Brampton and Longtown.

Drainage and Water Closets.

The number of new drainage systems installed and water closets provided in place of earth closets, privies, etc. is 83: 20 of these are drained to the Council's sewers and 63 to cess-pools. In addition, 20 systems previously draining to cess-pools have now been connected to the Council's sewers.

Water Supplies.

The number of existing houses provided with a water supply from the Council's mains is 27.

Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings

The number of camping sites licensed under Sec. 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 remains at 3. In addition 10 licences were issued to station moveable dwellings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies Regulations

Fourteen distributors of milk are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, an increase of five over the previous year. Five of the distributors have premises outside the district. These distributors sell milk in the more populous parts of the district, elsewhere milk is sold by numerous producer-retailers, over whom the Council has no control.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949, the following licences were issued:

Dealers' Licences—Tuberculin Tested	...	...	7
Dealers' Supplementary Licences — Tuberculin Tested	...	...	4
Dealers' Licences—Pasteurised	...	...	4
Dealers' Supplementary Licences—Pasteurised	...	...	3
Dealers' Licences—Sterilised	...	...	1

Ice Cream

Ice Cream is manufactured and retailed at one premises, and retailed only at thirty-two other premises within the district.

Manufacture of Preserved Foods

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, packed or preserved foods under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Slaughter Houses and Inspection of Meat

Seven slaughterhouses were licensed during 1955 but at the end of the year one licence expired on the death of the holder.

Results of inspections carried out at Slaughterhouses during the Year, 1955:

		Cattle excluding		Sheep and	
		Cows	Cows	Lambs	Pigs
Numbers Inspected	...	398	24	1,005	343
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned		3	—	19	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned		249	12	211	30
Percentage	... ..	63.3	50.0	22.9	9.03
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned		—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned		—	—	—	9
Percentage	... ..	—	—	—	2.6
Cysticercus Bovis on'y:					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned		12	—	—	—
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration	...	9	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	... ..	—	—	—	—
Percentage	... ..	3.01	—	—	—

Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The following foodstuffs were condemned in shops and stores:—

Frozen Beef	...	...	...	180 lbs.
Canned Corned Beef	...	...	...	798 lbs.
Canned Stewed Steak	...	...	...	423 lbs.
Canned Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	30 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Canned Salmon	...	...	...	11 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	...	...	...	11 lbs.
Canned Fruit	...	...	...	49 lbs.
Evaporated Milk and Full Cream	...	...	...	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ pints (equiv.)

Knackers' Yards

There are two Knackers' Yards in the district which are licensed annually. They have been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Rodent Control—Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts

On the 1st April, 1955 the Council's part-time operator was appointed to full-time duties. This has enabled the Council to carry out its obligations under the Act and during the year a large amount of survey work was carried out on agricultural holdings and other properties, and whenever infestations have been discovered prompt action was taken. The operator continues to carry out treatments on refuse tips and sewers as well as private properties, schools, and institutions.

Refuse Collection

In addition to the increase in the service due to new building there have been several small additions to the collection areas and the approximate number of houses in the collection areas is 6,550.

A new 16 cubic yard "Fore and Aft" Tipper was purchased during the year and is proving satisfactory in operation. There is little or no saving of time in loading, although the loading has proved more hygienic and pleasant for the workmen and a saving of time results in that fewer journeys to the tips are necessary.

Costs of this service continue to increase due mainly to increase in wages, but the running costs of vehicles shows a slight decrease during the year.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS FROM REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

Year Ended 31st March, 1956

EXPENDITURE:					£	s	d	£	s	d
Wages	...	...	...	...	4,458	10	2			
Refuse Tips, Rents and Maintenance					244	14	2			
Vehicles	...	...	...	...	2,689	6	8			
Advertising	...	...	...	...	13	15	0			
Scotby Depot — proportion of ex-										
penses	...	...	...	...	659	18	8			
Other expenses		...	...	...	148	7	4			
							<hr/>	8,214	12	0
INCOME:										
Sale of Salvage (Nett)	...	...	...	...	237	19	7			
Miscellaneous Income	...	...	...	...	25	9	10			
							<hr/>	263	9	5
							<hr/>	£7,951	2	7

The weight of salvage collected was as follows:

					Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.
Paper	...	...	...	...	33	9	3
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	.	9	15	1
					<hr/>		
					43	5	0
					<hr/>		

STATISTICAL TABLE

1 Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:—

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 572 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | | | | | | 653 |
| (2) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (Result of survey) | ... | ... | | | | | 480 |

(3) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	21
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	20
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	—
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	—
(a) By owners	—
(b) Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	1
(b) Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	8
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8
(3) Closing Orders made (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act), 1953)	14
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	—
4 Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding:		
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	29
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	... ..	36
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	... ..	174
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	6
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	43

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Houses inspected under Housing Acts and Public Health Acts	653
Houses inspected re proposals for reconditioning	8
Houses inspected re dirty conditions	9
Houses inspected re water supply	8
Houses inspected under Housing Act, 1949 re Improvement Grants	277
Nuisances	90
Existing drainage systems	24
Proposals for new drainage works	72
New drainage works inspected and tested	150
Inspections under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	14
Piggeries	2
Water Courses	10
Tents, Vans and Camping Sites	6
Refuse Tips	51
Investigating refuse collection complaints	10
Dangerous Buildings	8
Public Conveniences	12
Shops Act	16

Factory Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Squatters Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Knackers Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water Sampling—Bacteriological examinations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
Council House Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	355
Council Property	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Visits paid to Housing Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	377
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Meat Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	491
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Housing Repair and Rents Act, Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Demolition in regard to Camps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act. Inspection of subsidised houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	29

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN S. WATSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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